

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SAJ-01 EURE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCA-01 VO-03

DRC-01 /140 W

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P R 091548Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3692

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 7794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, AU

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER LOCATION IN VIENNA OF NEW
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRE TRANSIT FACILITY

SUMMARY: VIENNA MAYOR HAS ANNOUNCED DECISION TO PRESS FOR
RELOCATION OF NEWLY OPENED TRANSIT FACILITY FOR SOVIET JEWISH
EMIGRES IN WAKE OF PUBLIC DEMAND FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM
ADJOINING HOUSING AREA. PROCESSING OF EMIGRES WILL
CONTINUE WITHOUT BREAK UNTIL EQUALLY SUITABLE FACILITY
LOCATED. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTROVERSY HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN SOCIALIST VIENNA
MAYOR GRATZ AND SOCIALIST FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER
ROESCH OVER LOCATION OF RECENTLY OPENED TRANSIT FACILITY
FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES IN OUTER DISTRICT OF VIENNA
WITH GRATZ CALLING FOR ITS RELOCATION ELSEWHERE AND
ROESCH RELUCTANTLY AGREEING TO SUCH MOVE, PROVIDED
EQUALLY SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE SITE FOUND.

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2. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (VIENNA A-292, JUNE 18, 1974) LOCAL INHABITANTS OF VIENNA DISTRICT OF SIMMERING REGISTERED THEIR EARLIER CONCERN OVER THEIR SAFETY AND THAT OF THEIR CHILDREN UPON SELECTION AND PURCHASE BY AUSTRIAN RED CROSS OF THE PREMISES FOR FACILITY.

3. RECENT COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF 10 FOOT-HIGH CONCRETE WALL WITH ACCORDIAN BARB WIRE ON FACE OF OUTSIDE WALL AND APPEARANCE OF HEAVILY ARMED POLICEMEN OUTSIDE FACILITY HAS REVIVED FEARS OF LOCAL TOWNSPEOPLE WHO IN TURN HAVE BROUGHT PRESSURE TO BEAR UPON VIENNA MAYOR GRATZ. MAYOR AND ENTOURAGE, INCLUDING VIENNA SECURITY OFFICIALS, ANNOUNCED TO PRESS FOLLOWING THEIR INSPECTION OF FACILITY ON SEP. 6 THAT THEY WOULD PUSH FOR REMOVAL OF FACILITY FROM AREA IN INTEREST OF SAFEGUARDING LIVES AND PROPERTIES OF LOCAL INHABITANTS.

4. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY INTERIOR MINISTRY SOURCE, PUBLIC STAND BY MAYOR CAUGHT MINISTRY BY SURPRISE AND DISCUSSIONS ON SELECTION OF NEW SITE ARE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POSITION, AS SET FORTH BY ROESCH, IS THAT UNTIL A NEW ALTERNATIVE SITE HAS BEEN FOUND AND APPROVED BY ALL CONCERNED, FACILITY WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE.

5. JAI REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT INVOLVED IN DISPUTE OVER LOCATION BUT EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED CONCERNING SELECTION OF ANOTHER SITE.

6. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY BREAK IN PROCESSING OF SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES WHILE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES SEEK TO LOCATE ANOTHER SITE FOR FACILITY. HUMB

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